

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was held via Zoom teleconference.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

Attendance

Nick Arnold, KE8FKB
Michael Baxla, KE8ICP
John Biddle, W8PG
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ
Joe Weber, KE8LRZ

Corrections/Additions to Minutes of Last Meeting

Due to this being a teleconference-only meeting, no hard-copies of the March Minutes were distributed. Members had been instructed via email to read the March Minutes on-line prior to the meeting.

A motion to accept the March Minutes as published was made by Drew McDaniel, W8MHV. The motion was seconded by Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ. The motion passed without dissent.

Treasurer's Report

Due to this being a teleconference-only meeting, no hard-copies of the Treasurer's Report were distributed. The Treasurer's Report in PDF format is available online:

http://www.ac-ara.org/minutes/2021/Treasurers_Report_April_2021.pdf.

Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, presented the Treasurer's Report. The club treasury holds \$1,549.98 in unencumbered funds. The *Jim Crouse Memorial Fund* holds \$158.40.

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, asked if the income from the recent VE testing session should have been deposited in the *Jim Crouse Memorial Fund*. Drew agreed that the money should have been deposited in that account; he will make the correction and the May Treasurer's Report will reflect the change.

Drew reminded the membership that at the March meeting he had been directed to invite newly-licensed and recently-upgraded amateurs in Athens County to join the ACARA at no charge for a year. He sent out approximately ten letters with ACARA applications via postal mail and received three membership applications in return. As approved at the March meeting, in these letters Drew identified himself as "Membership Coordinator". Drew wants to permanently change the office's title to "Treasurer and Membership Coordinator".

Drew reported that the club now has twenty-eight members. When asked, Drew estimated there to be between six and ten long-time members who have not yet renewed their memberships.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, made a motion that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Eric McFadden, WD8RIF. The motion passed without dissent.

Old Business

VHF and UHF Repeaters

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that he has noticed no significant decrease of the 2m repeater during any of the recent nets and that the repeater appears to be working well. He added that he has noticed an increase in activity on the repeater.

Jeff Slattery reported that the UHF repeater continues to work well, although the repeater's coverage area is still limited. Jeff suggested that the club might want to ask Justin Drummond, W8JDA, of the Chillicothe area, to climb the tower and check the antenna and feedline.

Jeff Slattery reported no recent progress on the Arcom ARC-210 repeater controller project.

ACARA Nets

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the ACARA's weekly and monthly nets continue to do well during this time of COVID-19. He reminded members of the current net schedule:

- 2m FM Net, Mondays, 7pm, 145.15 MHz
- 70cm FM Net, Mondays, immediately following the 2m net, 442.100 MHz
- 10m SSB Ragchew Net, Tuesdays, 5pm, 28.350 MHz
- 6m AM Net, Sundays and Wednesdays, 5pm, 50.4 MHz
- 2m System Fusion Net, Thursdays, 5pm, 145.15 MHz
- 70cm System Fusion Net, Thursdays, immediately following the 2m System Fusion net, 442.100 MHz
- 2m FM Simplex Net, first Thursday, 7pm, 146.400 MHz

As an indicator of the continuing popularity of the nets, Eric showed a thick stack of ACARA net log-sheets he has kept during the thirteen months of COVID-19.

Eric extended thanks to all those serving as net-control and to all those participating in the club nets. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, additionally thanked those members who have sent him net participant lists for entry into the ARES Connect system.

Old Business (continued)

Foxhunts

Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, reported that the Hocking Valley Amateur Radio Club (HVARC) held their second foxhunt of the season on Saturday, April 17. The event had twelve participants hunting in six vehicles. Kirk mentioned that he participated in the foxhunt and that he came in “dead last”. Kirk reported that HVARC will hold another foxhunt in May.

ACARA Constitution and Bylaws

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the rewrite of the club's Constitution and Bylaws remains on hold during the COVID-19 epidemic.

Old Business (continued)

Athens Hamfest

Date of Event: ~~Sunday, April 25, 2021~~

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership that at the February meeting, the members had voted to postpone the Athens Hamfest until a date in late July or mid- to late-August and that we invite SCARF to participate in a combined ACARA/SCARF "All Athens County Hamfest".

Eric also reminded the membership that in February he had notified the ARRL of the cancelation/postponement of the Athens Hamfest but added that the notification came too late to keep the Athens Hamfest out of the hamfest listings in the April edition of QST.

Eric reported that on April 5, Ohio Governor DeWine rescinded the ban on gatherings (<https://woub.org/2021/04/05/ohio-ending-mass-gathering-ban-as-part-of-simplified-health-order/>) and wondered if this would make a summer hamfest easier to hold.

Eric reported that he has emailed SCARF President Robert Peoples, N8UVM, several times but has not received a reply for any but the first email. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that he sent emails to Jeramy Duncan, Curt Duncan, and Robert Peoples but has not received replies.

Eric reported that he contacted Vanessa Scott at the Athens Community Center via email to ask about availability of the venue but had not yet received a reply.

Eric asked what should the ACARA do regarding the rescheduled hamfest?

Jeff Slattery mentioned that SCARF meets again Sunday, May 2, and suggested we try to contact them again following that meeting. Several members agreed on this proposal. Eric stated he will contact Robert Peoples, Jeramy Duncan, Curt Duncan, and Russ Ellis following the SCARF May meeting. The assembled members agreed that the Executive Committee should select a date and venue for a rescheduled hamfest.

Old Business (continued)

Public Service Event – Lake Hope Bicycle Race

Event Sponsor: Team Athens Cycling / Todd Acheson

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported he has not yet been contacted by the event organizer with a new date for this event.

Public Service Event – Run for the Blue Blazes / Buckeye Trail Marathon

Event Date: Saturday, October 2, 2021

Event Sponsor: [Buckeye Trail Association](#) / Herb Hullis

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the event will no longer have a full marathon; it will have a half-marathon and several shorter courses.

Watch for emails from Jeff as the date of the event grows nearer.

Public Service Event – Athens Gravel Challenge

Event Date: Saturday, October 2, 2021

Event Sponsor: Team Athens Cycling / Todd Acheson

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reminded the membership that the date of this rescheduled event is the same date as that of the Buckeye Trail Marathon. Jeff is confident the club can provide enough operators to support both events.

Watch for emails from Jeff as the date of the event grows nearer.

Public Service Event – Bobcat Trail Marathon

Event Sponsor: Western Reserve Racing / Joe Jurczyk

Event Date: Saturday, November 13, 2021

<https://www.westernreserveracing.com/events/bobcat-trail-marathon/>

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reports he has not heard been contacted about ACARA support for the 2021 running of this event.

Old Business (continued)

Operating Event – ARRL Field Day

Event Date: June 27-28, 2021

<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded members that the ARRL has extended the special COVID-19 rules for 2021:

Class D stations may work all other Field Day stations, including other Class D stations, for points. This year, however, Class D and Class E stations will be limited to 150 W PEP output.

An aggregate club score will be published — just as it was done last year. The aggregate score will be a sum of all individual entries that attributed their score to that of a specific club.

Eric reported that in the event the club can participate in Field Day as a group operation, he has contacted Ranson Calloway of the Athens County Fair Board to ask about use of the Athens County Fairgrounds for Field Day. Mr. Calloway replied that we can probably plan on using the Fairgrounds, but he needs to get approval first from the Fair Board.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, agreed to contact Athens County 9-1-1 to ask about club use of the 50' mobile crank-up tower for Field Day.

Special Event Station – The Wall That Heals National Tour 2021

Event Date: July 29, 2021 – August 1, 2021

<https://www.vvmf.org/The-Wall-That-Heals/2021-Tour-Schedule/>

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reports he has heard nothing new about this event.

Public Service Event – Thunderbase 2022

Event Date: April 29-May 5, 2022

<https://scoutingevent.com/441-thunderbase>

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported he has heard nothing new about this event. Jeff added that he recently completed Youth Protection Training (YPT) and recommends others interested in participating in Thunderbase 2022 do the same by visiting <https://www.scouting.org/>. Anyone having questions may contact Jeff.

New Business

VE Testing Session

Date: Sunday, April 25, 2021

Time: 2pm

Location: Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, confirmed that there will be a VE testing session on what would have been the date of the Athens Hamfest. This will probably be a parking-lot session unless Jeff can gain permission to use the large meeting room in the Red Cross Chapterhouse.

Tape Measure 2m Yagi Build

Date: Sunday, April 25, 2021

Time: 1pm

Location: Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio

Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, announced he will be sponsoring a second tape-measure 2m yagi build. He has parts for three tape-measure yagis, exclusive of feedline or connector, available to builders at \$15 each. The build will take place in the parking lot of the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio, at 1pm, immediately prior to the scheduled VE testing session. Those interested in building a yagi are requested to RSVP with Kirk at breathair@hotmail.com.

June Picnic

Date: Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Time: 5:30pm

Location: Dairy Lane Picnic Shelter

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, asked if the club should plan on a physical gathering this June. The consensus, given that the event will take place outdoors and that most members will have been fully vaccinated by then, was that club should sponsor a June Picnic.

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, agreed to attempt to reserve the Dairy Lane picnic shelter for the evening of the usual third-Tuesday-in-June.

New Business (continued)

ARES NVIS Day 2021

Event Date: Saturday, April 24, 2021, 10am – 4pm local time

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, announced the upcoming ARRL NVIS Day. Jeff will send an email with details.

Following a motion by Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, and a second by Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted by President and Secretary Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.